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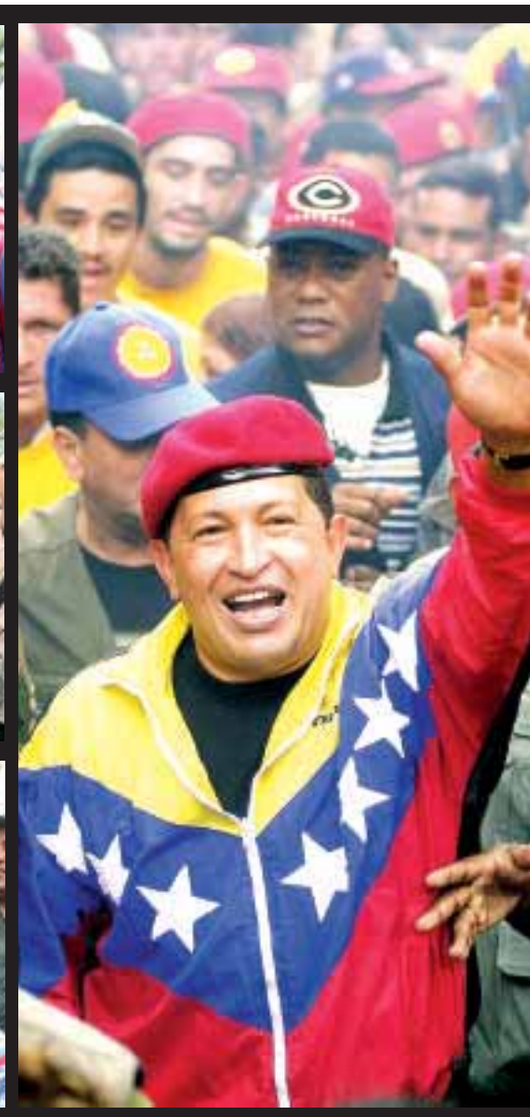

FINAL BATTLE ENDS FOR CHAVEZ

Venezuelans took to the streets Tuesday to mourn the death of President Hugo Chavez, seen during a government march in Caracas in 2002. Chavez, who electrified Latin America for more than a decade, died after a battle with cancer. Story, page 4. ARIANA CUBILLOS & FERNANDO LLANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rent control not an option, province says

Housing hullabaloo. Justice minister pitches other avenues after Regina tenants facing big rent hike seek help at the legislature

Residents of a Regina apartment block say they feel like "faceless people" and are frustrated after their building was recently sold to a Calgary company that has implemented massive rent hikes.

In some cases, the tenants say, rents are going up 77 per cent.

Pat Colpitts, a senior who has lived in the building for nine years, says the rent on her small two-bedroom apartment is $675, but come Sept. 1 it will jump to $1,195.

"Totally shocked," Colpitts says of the increase.

"We knew there would be an increase because it's new owners, but we weren't expecting $520, maybe $100, maybe $200. But that's it for me. I'll be moving out, there's no ifs, ands or buts.

"It is financially impossible to stay there, for me, and I would think a lot of other tenants as well," she added.

Colpitts and a handful of other tenants went to the Saskatchewan legislature Tuesday to plead for help. They want the province to bring in rent control.

Justice Minister Gord Wyant said Thursday that the rent hike was "an exceptional circumstance," adding that most increases in the province are in the two- to four-per-cent range.

However, Wyant said rent control is off the table.

"We believe that it's a disincentive to improving properties, it's a disincentive to the establishment and for the building of new rental accommodations and we've seen that across the province and we've seen that across the country," he said.

But the minister said there might be other options for the tenants through the Saskatchewan Rental Industry Housing Association.

"Perhaps there's some other (solution), maybe phasing it in. There's lots of solutions that could potentially be arranged between the parties," he said.

"And if that doesn't work, then the program will provide some assistance in trying to find alternate accommodations."

The Calgary-based Castle Mountain Properties gave the proper six months' notice for the increase, said Wyant.

Landlords who belong to the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Industry Association have to give six months' notice of rent increases. Other landlords have to give 12 months' notice, under legislation passed by the Saskatchewan Party government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition criticism

'It really is an eviction notice'

New Democrat David Forbes, who raised the issue in the legislature, says there's nothing to stop other landlords from making massive hikes as well.

"These new regulations that they've put into place, these new laws, doesn't really help," said Forbes.

"It may make them feel better, but it doesn't really help because at the end of the day you do have to pay your rent or move and this is what's happening. In a sense, it really is an eviction notice."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cam Broten is looking to rebuild the NDP brand

Part two of our three-part series. Profiling candidates in the Saskatchewan NDP leadership race

JEFF MACKEY
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Throughout the NDP leadership campaign, Saskatoon MLA Cam Broten stressed the importance of rebuilding the party in Saskatchewan.

"I have articulated a very clear plan for what needs to happen within the party," said Broten. "We have, as New Democrats, a view of what kind of society we should create… but in order to do that we need our party to be in the shape that we need it to be in, so that we can be an effective political organization."

He hopes to accomplish this in a number of ways.

"I have talked a lot about making membership matter, so that people know if they are involved in the party they have a real say and influence on its outcomes," said Broten. Other changes Broten is pushing for include "modernizing our policy process, absolutely electing more women, bringing people into the party who are not currently represented and, very importantly, reconnecting with rural Saskatchewan."

A party rebuild has been in the works since 2011. After a thorough defeat at the polls, then-leader leader Dwain Lingenfelter stepped down, prompting the current leadership race.

For his part, Broten said his favourite part of Saskatchewan is the diversity of its people.

"How they come together and think about how we want to have a stronger society and cooperate, and those are the values that Saskatchewan was built on and will continue to serve us well in the decades ahead," said Broten.

Saskatoon Massey Place MLA Cam Broten is running for the leadership of the Saskatchewan NDP. The party will be electing its new leader on Mar. 9. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Brad Wall talks to the media in his office, with its new floor. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

MLA calls Wall on the carpet over his new office floor

It's a flooring project with a cost that's gone through the roof, a Saskatchewan New Democrat MLA says of new hardwood in the office of Premier Brad Wall.

Cathy Sproule, a Saskatoon MLA, is slamming Wall and the Saskatchewan Party over the $22,260 project to replace old carpet with the hardwood.

"This is a government giving us signals about austerity and some severe measures that are going to be taken in the budget coming up, and yet we find out he's spending $22 a square foot on hardwood," Sproule said Tuesday, a day after raising the issue at the legislature.

"There's a disconnect. And I think middle-class people are going to say that disconnect doesn't work."

The Ministry of Central Services said, however, that the renovation was its decision independent of the premier before the work was done last July.

Assistant deputy minister Richard Murray stressed that the carpet was more than 25 years old, "in very, very rough shape" and in dire need of replacement.

"It was almost an embarrassment," Murray added, explaining that the "complex" job to install the "high-quality" flooring came as part of a four-year maintenance plan.

The hardwood, he said, keeps with the legislature's heritage and has a lifespan of up to 70 years.

ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Debts and deficits

NDP blames Sask. universities' plight on poor funding

The Opposition NDP says universities in Saskatchewan are in a financial mess, but the government says it's not to blame.

New Democrat Cam Broten says there have been layoffs and program cuts at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and the University of Regina.

Broten says the government hasn't properly funded the health sciences building at the University of Saskatchewan and forced $100 million of debt onto the school.

Advanced Education Minister Don Morgan says the province has not cut funding to the schools.

Morgan says the government has given universities enough money to look after programs and expenses.

The University of Regina got $95.6 million from the province in 2011-2012 and the University of Saskatchewan received more than $292 million.

The U of S is projecting a deficit of $44.5 million by 2016 if no action is taken to save money, and the U of R has been asked to cut its budget by three per cent this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conference Board

Index points to 29,000 jobs boost

The Conference Board says it is looking for a rebound in job creation for February when the new employment statistics are published Friday.

The think-tank says its national help-wanted index jumped by the largest margin in almost two years in January with every province except Newfoundland trending up.

This suggests a major job boost in February, but the Conference Board believes employment gains will be more modest.

It estimates about 29,000 jobs will be added in February.

The index suggests the strongest gains will come in Western Canada, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VP named interim president following Hugo Chavez's death

Venezuela. With the passing of the fiery leader, the country's foreign minister says Vice-President Nicolas Maduro will take over, with elections to be called within 30 days

Venezuela's foreign minister says Vice-President Nicolas Maduro will serve as interim president in the wake of Hugo Chavez's death and that elections will be called within 30 days.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua also told the Telesur network that Maduro would be the candidate of the governing socialist party.

It was not immediately clear when elections would actually be held.

The government said Chavez died Tuesday after a nearly two-year bout with cancer.

Hundreds of anguished Venezuelans poured into the streets of downtown Caracas crying, hugging each other and shouting slogans in support of Chavez after learning of his death Tuesday.

Clusters of women with tears streaming down their faces clung to each other and wept near the Miraflores presidential palace.

Some wore T-shirts with slogans that read, "Go forward commander!"

Nearby, men with grim and sombre faces pumped their arms in the air while shouting, "Long live Chavez! Long live Chavismo!"

People also gathered outside the military hospital where Chavez died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online

For more news on Hugo Chavez go to metronews.ca.

Canadian reaction

As Chavez, 58, finally succumbed Tuesday to the cancer that he had been fighting for nearly two years, Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke out about the death.

- Harper offered his "condolences to the people of Venezuela" and said that he looked forward "to working with (Chavez's) successor and other leaders in the region to build a hemisphere that is more prosperous, secure and democratic."
- The prime minister in a statement said: "I hope the people of Venezuela can now build for themselves a better, brighter future based on the principles of freedom, democracy and human rights." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supporters of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez react in downtown Caracas on Tuesday after the vice-president announced Chavez's death. FERNANDO LLANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEA. Former drug chiefs urge U.S. to nullify states' laws legalizing marijuana

Eight former U.S. drug chiefs warned the federal government Tuesday that time is running out to nullify Colorado and Washington's new laws legalizing recreational marijuana use, and a United Nations agency also urged challenges to the measures it says violate international treaties.

The former Drug Enforcement Administration chiefs criticized Barack Obama's administration for moving too slowly to file a lawsuit that would force the states to rescind the legislation.

Marijuana is illegal under federal law.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird. Palestinians could face 'consequences' for pursuing Israel at the UN

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird has told a powerful pro-Israel lobby that Palestinians will feel "consequences" from Canada if they pursue the Jewish state at the International Criminal Court.

Baird issued the warning just as the federal government considers whether to end hundreds of millions of dollars in Canadian humanitarian aid to the Palestinians when it expires at the end of this month.

Baird delivered his message to an approving audience Sunday in Washington at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Canada strongly opposed the Palestinians' successful effort in November to win elevated status at the UN and has warned them against using it to file an international legal complaint against Israel.

It has also opposed the Palestinian bid to win membership with the United Nations cultural organization, UNESCO.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deteriorating situation

North Korea vows to cancel Korean War cease-fire

North Korea vowed Tuesday to cancel the 1953 cease-fire that ended the Korean War, citing a U.S.-led push for punishing UN sanctions over its recent nuclear test and ongoing U.S.-South Korean joint military drills.

The Korean People's Army Supreme Command warned of "surgical strikes" meant to unify the divided Korean Peninsula and of an indigenous "precision nuclear striking tool."

The statement came amid reports that the U.S. and North Korean ally Beijing have approved a draft UN resolution for sanctions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family feuds over gun remarks made by Pistorius' dad

A public feud erupted Tuesday within the family of Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympian charged with murdering his girlfriend, as the runner and his relatives distanced themselves from comments his father reportedly made about guns and crime in South Africa.

South Africa's ruling party, the African National Congress, also waded into the family dispute. A spokesman for the party accused Henke Pistorius, the runner's father, of racism for his observations reported in British newspapers about crime against white South Africans and the suggestion that the ANC government isn't adequately protecting them.

The Pistorius family and the reputation management firm it has hired are working to head off any negative publicity or controversy that might possibly have a bearing on the outcome of the runner's case, which could see him jailed for life if convicted of premeditated murder.

They quickly issued a statement early Tuesday morning saying the family "is deeply concerned" about the father's interview that "doesn't represent the views of Oscar or the rest of the Pistorius family."

The Telegraph and Mirror newspapers quoted Henke Pistorius as saying the family owns handguns for self-defence, which is not unusual in South Africa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius' father, Henke Pistorius, right, watches with his children as Oscar walks in during his bail hearing in February. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Target's here, but the price isn't always right

Doubtful discounts. Shoppers at three new Ontario stores find the savings don't match what's on offer in U.S.

Employees welcome the first shoppers who lined up for the new Target store in Guelph, Ont. on Tuesday. The company is expected to open between 125 and 135 locations across Canada. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The long-awaited arrival of U.S. discount giant Target means Canadians can now get their hands on the famed bull's-eye brand's wares without crossing the border — though the savings here might not equal those down south.

The retail chain, which opened its doors on Tuesday in three communities west of Toronto, has said Canadian customers will likely see a difference in pricing compared to items carried in its U.S. stores, with the company focused on being "competitively priced" with retailers in Canada.

A spokeswoman for Target Canada couldn't say exactly how that will play out on shelves in the newly launched Ontario stores in Guelph, Fergus and Milton or the dozens more locations the company expects to open across the country.

Pricing depends on a number of factors and it's difficult to give case-by-case examples or even narrow it down to categories of products more likely to warrant higher prices, Lisa Gibson said on Tuesday.

"In certain cases, the prices will actually be completely on par with U.S. prices and in some cases there might be some differences, but ... our overall goal is to make sure we're competitive with the marketplace," she said, adding the company is also bringing in a five per cent reward program from the U.S.

At the Guelph store, a 2.95-litre bottle of Tide laundry detergent was priced at $15.99 on Tuesday, compared with $11.99 US on Target's American website. The same product was listed for $15.99 on the Canadian Tire website.

A bottle of Aveeno moisturizer cost $7.49 at the Guelph store, while the lotion was marked down to $5.99 US on the U.S. website, down from the regular price of $6.29. On the Shoppers Drug Mart website, it was priced at $8.99.

Brian Yarbrough, consumer and industrial analyst with Edward Jones, said the chain should manage to slightly undercut competitors on some items simply because none in Canada can rival its buying power. But he said Target has no reason to match its U.S. prices if consumers are willing to pay more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Debit-card fraud drops

Interac Association says Interac debit-card fraud losses as a result of skimming are at their lowest level on record since 2003 — falling to $38.5 million in 2012 from a high of $142 million in 2009. Caroline Hubberstey, the head of external communications for Interac Association, says the ongoing conversion to chip technology is a vital tactic in fraud prevention. Unlike a magnetic stripe, she says, chip technology is extremely difficult to copy and reproduce. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baggage restrictions

WestJet cuts carry-on limit

WestJet plans to reduce how much its passengers carry on, a move the airline says will make its increasingly full Boeing 737s less crowded and help align its baggage rules with those of other airlines.

After April 4, travellers will be allowed only one piece of carry-on luggage and one personal item. The airline had previously allowed two carry-on items and a personal item. The latter includes smaller things such as small purses, laptop bags or child restraint devices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.28¢ (-0.02¢)

TSX
12,736.04 (+28.63)

OIL
$90.82 US (+70¢)

GOLD
$1,574.90 US (+$2.50)

Natural gas: $3.53 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 14,253.77 (+125.95)

Marketing faux pas

Kia Provo recalls the Troubles

Kia's new concept car, Provo, is designed to provoke comment. But to many across Ireland, the name sounds too much like a celebration of terrorism.

Lawmakers from Northern Ireland formally appealed for the carmaker to junk the name of its planned super-mini sports coupe because "Provo" is the nickname for the dominant branch of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, the Provisional IRA.

The prototype is years away from production.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food safety

China destroys Ikea cake

Chinese authorities have destroyed nearly two tonnes of chocolate cake imported by Ikea for violating food-quality standards. The Shanghai quarantine bureau said Kraft cream cheese and 2.7 tons of Nestle chocolate bars also were among dozens of imported products destroyed in its latest round of quality inspections.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dow wows. Stock index surges past all-time high

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at a record on Tuesday, beating the previous high it set in October 2007, before the financial crisis and the Great Recession.

The index rose 126 points, or one per cent, to 14,253, beating its previous record by 89 points. In fact, it is up nearly nine per cent this year, capping a remarkable comeback.

The Dow has more than doubled since falling to a low of 6,547 in March 2009 following the financial crisis and the Great Recession. Stocks have rebounded sharply since then with the help of a large dose of stimulus from the Federal Reserve, even as the economic recovery has been slow and steady rather than spectacular.

"Whether they want to admit it or not, everyone is very impressed with the resilience of the market," said Alec Young, a global equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retailer dispute. Martha takes the stand once more

Eight years after Martha Stewart was released from prison for lying about a stock trade, the home diva is now facing another legal mess that may not be easy to clean up.

Stewart, 71, took the stand in New York State Supreme Court on Tuesday morning. She is at the centre of a bitter legal battle between two of America's largest retailers — Macy's Inc. and J.C. Penney Co.

Macy's sued the media and merchandising company Stewart founded for breaching an exclusive contract when she signed a deal with Penney in December 2011 to open shops at most of its stores this spring.

Macy's, which has sold Martha Stewart products including towels and pots since 2007, is trying to block Penney from selling those products.

The trial is clearly more than a contract dispute. It's a courtroom drama that's unfolding about disloyalty and greed.

Testimony has portrayed Stewart as someone who turned her back on her good friend and Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren so she could enrich her company.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WANTED

My name is Oliver, and I have been residing with the Saskatoon SPCA for 157 days.

While I'm thankful to have found safe shelter, I can't help but long for a loving human of my very own.
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DO PRICEY JEANS COME WITH DEEP POCKETS?

JUST SAYIN'

Mike Benhaim
Guest columnist

During a recent trip to Montreal, I found myself engaged in a fascinating discussion with a 30-year-old metrosexual male who was passionately extolling the virtues of the $450 pair of jeans he wore.

Now, I'm not one to dismiss the importance of personal style and presentation, but if I were Forrest Gump, I'd say, "I've worn lots o' jeans." While I can easily recognize an obvious difference in quality, I saw nothing that great in this particular pair.

I admitted to having owned a few pair of jeans for which I paid too much, even on sale. But I have never found them to improve as much with time as I've been told a good pair should.

Furthermore, $450 is not the most shocking price tag around.

It seems that even Ye Olde Levi's Shoppe now produces a hand-sewn, heavy-denim product that retails for $500.

Apparently, these magical pants will create the illusion that even the oddest-shaped individual is actually fit.

Keeping an open mind, I began to pay attention to brand-name jeans, such as Diesel and 7 For All Mankind, that ranged between $350 and $900. Yeah, you heard me! And that's nothing.

APO Jeans will sell you a custom product with pockets lined in pure silk, a perfectly polished silver zipper and a real diamond button for $4,000!

Why do I get the feeling there's a Kardashian behind this somewhere?

People of Earth, I beg you: For the sake of the children, "Stop the madness!"

They're jeans!

Jeans were meant to be comfortable and casual. The coolest ones are faded and frayed at the edges. They've been worn out in all the right places and can be passed on to someone else when your ass grows out of them.

Sure, you should expect to pay more now than you did in the '80s, but please.

There are plenty of good-quality, excellent-fitting jeans available for under $100, and if you think they make you look fat then — you're fat! Work on that instead of putting all the pressure on your clothing.

Now, I can always forgive the feminine whimsy (within reason) if the result is extraordinary, but men: I speak on behalf of guys more and less macho than myself when I suggest finding a pair of jeans that feel good and spending $20 getting them altered to your liking. That's it.

If your girlfriend wants to play dress-up with you, as some women will do, and buys you a pair of the ol' rhinestone cowgirls, return them for a cheaper pair and buy her a very nice dinner with the change. If you don't, you'll be scheduled the next day for a mani-pedi and full-body manscaping that sounds much nicer than it feels.

Now, I can hardly wait for all the stylish clubgoers I've offended to tweet the cheap out of me, but I ask that the rest of you find this online and tell me where you buy YOUR jeans and how much you pay for them.

Just sayin'.

Read more of Just Sayin' at metronews.ca

ZOOM

Sally the camel had 1 maple leaf

MARTIN LIPMAN/CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fossils offer climate clues

Dr. Natalia Rybczynski examines the fossil bones of the High Arctic camel laid out in a lab at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

The fossil evidence consists of about 30 bone fragments, which together form part of a limb bone of a camel. Found on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, this is the northernmost discovery of camels in the Arctic, about 1,200 kilometres further north than the Yukon camel. The camel lived about three and a half million years ago, when the region supported a boreal-type forest.

Back when this camel was browsing leaves and shoots, the entire global climate averaged about two or three degrees warmer than it is now.

That's about as much a difference as scientists say the Earth can undergo today without catastrophic changes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

An illustration of the High Arctic camel on Ellesmere Island during the Pliocene warm period, about three and a half million years ago. HANDOUT

Clickbait

What was the worst hashtag fail so far? We'll let you be the judge.

#susanalbumparty
In November 2012, the PR team behind Britain's Susan Boyle was relentlessly mocked for their use of the 'susanalbumparty' hashtag.

#RIMjobs
In what will likely stand as the greatest Canadian hashtag fail, the company formerly known as Research in Motion chose to court prospective employees via the 'RIMjobs' hashtag.

#McDstories
Last year, McDonald's asked its customers to share memories of dining at the fast-food joint via a 'McDstories' hashtag. Sooner than you could say 'happy meal,' the tag was flooded with accounts of finding fingernails in Big Macs and other sordid stories.

#Rogers1Number
In another Canadian example, Rogers paid Twitter to keep the 'Rogers1Number' tag atop the site's list of trending topics last March. Of course, the hashtag allowed customers to publicize their complaints about poor service and perceived price-gouging.

#Hobbitch
Earlier this year, a Swiss company used the 'Hobbitch' hashtag to promote the latest installment in the Lord of the Rings movie franchise. It's a case of lost in translation, as .ch is the official domain name for Switzerland.

Letters

Re: Horsemeat big business in Alberta, published March 4.

The article indicates that only horses at their end of life are slaughtered.

This is not true! MANY YOUNG HEALTHY horses are slaughtered because the owners either don't know the possible outcome of taking their horse to an auction, or don't care.

There are also some irresponsible (using nice language here) horse breeders who purposely 'over breed'. They keep what they consider the cream of the crop and send the rest to auction.

Pat Rollock, Calgary

What is wrong with the world today? Can we not draw a line on which animals we will 'slaughter' and consume?

I am confused by the poll and growing acceptance of Canadians to consume horsemeat. Would you stand by and allow your cats and dogs to be slaughtered and then be eaten?

Ruth S., Whitby, Ont.

I was shocked by the article on horse meat. The reporter did not do enough research, the facts are that bute has been found in horsemeat often and it causes cancer in humans.

Cindy Cardy, London, Ont.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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A century of Oz-inspired entertainment

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

When New Girl star Zooey Deschanel was two years old she watched The Wizard of Oz every day. "I had a hard time understanding that I couldn't go into the film," she said, "because it felt so real to me."

She's not alone. It is one of the most watched and universally adored Hollywood films ever.

This weekend Disney hopes to add to the legacy of the original film with Oz the Great and Powerful, a Sam Raimi directed prequel starring James Franco and Mila Kunis. Ever wondered why the wicked witch was so wicked? Or how the wizard became the wizard? With a click of its ruby slippers this movie fills in the blanks. It's not the first movie to try and woo an audience based on Oz and its citizens.

1910's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was the first Baum book to hit the screen. Almost seven decades later, two very different musicals were inspired by the Oz folks.

20th Century Oz is a 1976 Australian rock musical that reimagines the classic story set in 1970s Australia. Two years later director Sidney Lumet adapted the Broadway hit The Wiz for the screen, casting Motown superstars Diana Ross as Dorothy and Michael Jackson as The Scarecrow. Although it was, at the time, the most expensive film musical ever made, it wasn't a hit in theatres.

This film image released by Disney Enterprises shows James Franco as Oz, left, and the character Finley, voiced by Zach Braff, in a scene from Oz the Great and Powerful. DISNEY ENTERPRISES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oz prequel brings Braff back to a 'magical place'

Oz the Great and Powerful. Director Sam Raimi 'at his finest' says the former Scrubs star

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Years ago I asked one of the original Wizard of Oz munchkins to explain the movie's enduring appeal.

"Everybody can enjoy it," said Karl Slover who was just two feet tall when he played the first trumpeter. "There's no filthy language in it. I don't see no bikinis! No nudist colonies! Kids can watch it and parents don't have to worry because there's nothing bad in there."

I recently asked Zach Braff the same question in an interview to promote Oz the Great and Powerful, a prequel to the most beloved movie of all time.

"It reminds us of our childhood," says the former Scrubs star, "and it reminds us of this magical place where crazy things happen. It is innocent and it is pure and it is amazing that it holds up. It was made in 1939, most kids don't see other movies made in 1939."

The new flick, co-staring James Franco, Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Wiliams, is a state-of-the-art film, but it's something that has been gestating for some time.

"I heard that Walt Disney always wanted to make an Oz movie," he says. "There's 13 books, so why not go back to that world and tell it from a 2013 perspective."

The new film echoes the original, starting with black and white scenes shot in Kansas before moving to the eye-popping fantasy world of Oz. The movie's modern twist is the addition of high tech tricks to make your eyes and ears dance. Braff calls the film's visual and audio tweaks — increasing the depth of the 3D and adding in surround sound for the Oz scenes, for example — "Sam Raimi at his finest."

Raimi, the director behind the Evil Dead movies and a little franchise called Spider-Man, was the big reason Braff signed on to the project.

"I heard Sam wanted to meet me in his office. That's a good call to get."

Braff, who made his directorial debut on the 2004 indie film Garden State, calls Raimi a "wonderful mentor who let me watch this whole process." Even on his days off the actor would go to the set to learn about big budget filmmaking from watching the old pro work on Oz's enormous sets.

"Sam's the biggest mensch on earth. The guy's a saint. He's too good to be true."

Billy Corgan: a professional wrestler?

Billy Corgan might be best known as the frontman for The Smashing Pumpkins. But recently, he's been dabbling in his other passion, professional wrestling.

Fans got a little peek into Corgan's wrestling endeavours through an ad for Chicago furniture store Walter E. Smithe called Billy Corgan's Musical Chairs. The commercial also features some of the wrestlers from Resistance Pro, a professional wrestling promotion company that Corgan started, as well as the singer himself.

Tim Smithe, the chief marketing officer for Walter E. Smithe, came up with the idea for the ad with his brothers. He was confident he could get Corgan to sign on, even though he realized getting the Smashing Pumpkins star was a "long shot."

"I know a 'second cousin' of Billy, and tried that angle a few years ago, and it went nowhere," he admitted to Metro World News.

It wasn't until Smithe and Corgan met on Mancow, a talk show in Chicago, that he was able to make his pitch in person.

Billy Corgan, right, steps into the ring. HANDOUT

"There was good, simple chemistry right away, and one thing lead to another during the commercial break," Smithe said.

"And then a few days later, someone from his staff called and said Billy is ready to 'let the wrestling begin.' My brothers and I were thrilled."

See online

Watch The Smashing Pumpkins frontman try his talents in the ring, online at metronews.ca

Smithe said that Corgan was "chill, intelligent and confident" during the shoot.

"On the set he was down to earth, light-hearted, and loves his wrestling team from the bottom of his heart," Smithe said.

SCENE

The Word

What's going on with Kim's mat wardrobe?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

As a woman who has grown a baby in her uterus, I know how hard it is to find good maternity clothing. So I can relate to Kim Kardashian's problem of finding a flattering pregnancy wardrobe. But I'm not sure why she's continuing to dress like she isn't pregnant.

I'm guessing her fashion-plate boyfriend, Kanye West, has something to do with it.

Case in point: as soon as Kardashian started to show, she decided to don this mesh-leather-feather-pants ensemble that made her resemble a motorcycle-riding ostrich. Then she wore this ill-fitting white ensemble on Saturday, which is made for a much taller, much less knocked-up person.

I'm not saying you can't look nice while pregnant. I'm just saying you should probably leave the high fashion at home.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Swift: Back up those rumours, people

Taylor Swift has some news for everyone keeping track of her love life. "If you want some big revelation, since 2010 I have dated exactly two people," she tells Vanity Fair, referring to high schooler Conor Kennedy and One Direction member Harry Styles. "The fact that there are slide shows of a dozen guys that I either hugged on a red carpet or met for lunch or wrote a song with, it's just kind of ridiculous."

Justin Bieber

Bieber gets booed in London

Justin Bieber's troublesome stay in London continued this week when he got a late start at his first show at the O2 Arena, courting boos from an angry, impatient audience, according to the BBC. "I never have any intent to upset or let anyone down, and I'm not OK with things being exaggerated," Bieber tweeted after the show. "Last night I was scheduled after three opening acts to go on stage at 9:35, not 8:30, but because of some technical issues i got on at 10:10, so I was 40 minutes late to [the] stage. There is no excuse for that and I apologize for anyone we upset."

Hilaria Baldwin

Hilaria Baldwin won't be going for Massimo

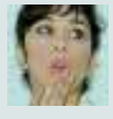
Alec Baldwin's new wife, Hilaria Baldwin, is over the moon about being pregnant with the couple's first child, but she's learning already that there are some areas where she and her famous husband don't see eye to eye — like when it comes to potential baby names. "(Alec) had the idea for Massimo the other day," Hilaria tells Rachael Ray during a visit to her television show. "That's a very big name for a little baby." She'd rather wait until the tyke arrives before settling on something.

Winslet on path of discovery

Kate Winslet says the period between her marriage to Sam Mendes — which ended in 2010 — and her December wedding with Ned Rocknroll has been a great period of self-discovery. "I've really learned a great deal about myself, in the last four years in particular," she tells Harper's Bazaar UK. "I think I can see more clearly now — about how the pattern of past experiences has shaped who I am, and the characters I have played — and I'm grateful for that. It gave so much more material to draw on for work — rubble, bricks — and I know I can carry it now."

Kate Winslet

Twitter



@SarahSilverman
BACKFIRE: This AdvilPM is giving me the dancing bug

@Rosie
On my way to film SMASH — love that show so much ... I am playing me — luckily I have done a lot of research ;)

@MARLONLWAYANS
Balling hard in my solitude of peace ... Whatever that means

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If you are Cuba-bound this March Break, a day trip to Havana is a must.
For a true taste of this time-warped capital, be sure to visit these must-see spots.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

5 Hot spots in Havana

Take a vintage car ride

The country is home to approximately 60,000 classic American automobiles that industrious Cubans have kept running since the 1959 revolution. Although a very walkable city, an hour long tour is a great way to get oriented. Ask the driver to cruise along the Malecon, an eight kilometre boulevard stretching alongside the Atlantic Ocean. Either arrange in advance through Gran Car or find a driver in Parque Central.

Hang out in Parque Central

The buzz created by masses of Cubans and tourists passing through the park is infectious. The building housing the Cuban National Ballet is stunning. And no visit is complete without a photo in front of the Capitolio Nacional. It was completed in 1929 as a tribute to its sister building in Washington, D.C.

Soak up the atmosphere of a retro hotel

Built on a hill above the Malecon, the grand Hotel Nacionale's 1930s tiled lobby and colonnaded veranda looking out to the sea is right out of a movie. The heart of Old Havana is sprinkled with smaller hotels, like Hotel Raquel, which have painstakingly restored their interior courtyards into an oasis of luxury. All are worth a peek.

Get a glimpse of glory at Plaza Vieja

Check out the Plaza Vieja. It has been undergoing a decade-long restoration and gives a glimpse of what Havana could look like if returned to its former glory. Make sure you also wander the narrow, congested, delightfully intriguing, cobbled surrounding streets of the old city. The UNESCO World Heritage site contains almost 1,000 buildings of historic importance.

Try a mojito, a la Hemingway

El Floridita and La Bodeguita del Medio are the two most famous ones, largely due to their affiliation with author Ernest Hemingway. Word is he preferred the daiquiris at the former and mojitos at the later. I tried both and agree. In addition to pouring over the throwback decor, the frequent appearance of live bands gives an opportunity for a taste of the vibrant Cuban music.

ARIZONA

Enjoy a 5 night stay in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona at the Chaparral Suites Resort. Three blocks from Old Town Scottsdale, this resort is in a great location for shopping and dining. Sit back and relax at The Grill or enjoy cascading fountains, tropical landscaping and two outdoor pools. Your package includes round trip air from Saskatoon and 5 nights accommodation.

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* Rate is per person, based on double occupancy. Taxes and fees are additional and are an estimated $249. Package includes round trip air from Saskatoon and 5 nights accommodation.

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Like Columbus, but with a yacht

Go wild. Taking a cruise on The Star is a great way to see some of the more untamed regions in Costa Rica

DIANE TIERNEY
life@metronews.ca

I learned a neat trick from a Howler monkey in Costa Rica. I was walking along a nature trail in Golfito National Park when the mosquitoes decided to attack. Although I had sunscreen on, I forgot to apply bug spray.

I noticed a monkey in the trees rubbing her arms with leaves and asked my trail guide what she was doing. He said she was coating her skin with the Piper plant. It has a citrus-like scent that the mosquitoes dislike. Clever monkey, I'll keep that in mind.

There are many fascinating wonders in the rainforest, which is why so many travellers visit this untamed destination. During this nature walk, hummingbirds that were the size of baseballs whizzed past my head and gigantic butterflies floated innocently from fern to flower. Huge bamboo trees towered over us and delicate pink orchids were tempting to pluck.

After we reached the magnificent waterfall that was our goal and reward, we emerged from the jungle to see four yellow-breasted toucans perched in the treetops and then dive-bomb into the bushes.

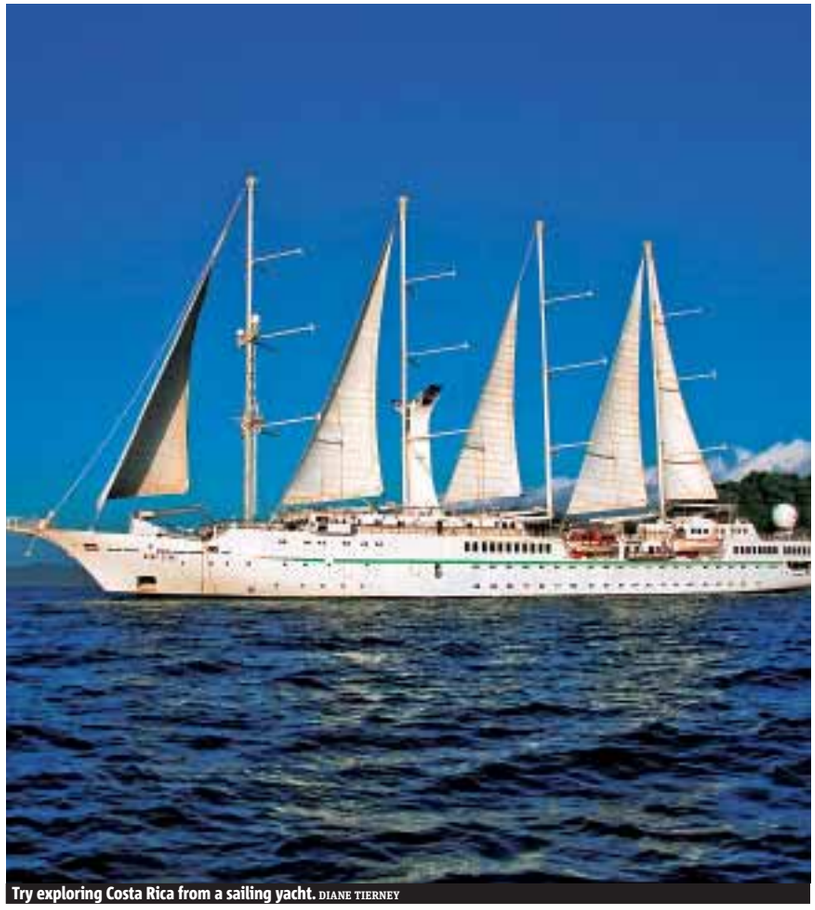
It's best to explore designated trails with a guide. Just don't be surprised if he's carrying a machete. Let him lead the way in case he sees a snake.

To visit Golfito, I sailed with Windstar Cruises on one of their three motorized sailing yachts, called the Star. Since their ships can sail under wind power most of the time thanks to their huge masts, I thought this kind of cruise was much more appropriate for such an environmentally-sensitive region. There are only 150 passengers on board the Star and the ship's small size makes offbeat ports easily accessible. Passengers also get to know each other well and it gave us all the feeling of being explorers like Columbus or Drake.

As well as Golfito, we sailed to San Blas, Panama — accessible thanks to the famous canal for being a 80-kilometre shortcut to the Pacific Ocean. This engineering marvel takes about 10 hours to pass through.

San Blas is a chain of about 400 islands inhabited by the Kuna Indians who have governed the province since the 1920s. Their distinctive dress, music and dance make you feel like you just stepped into the pages of National Geographic.

Visit Windstar Cruises at windstarcruises.com or call 1-800-258-7245.



Try exploring Costa Rica from a sailing yacht. DIANE TIERNEY

Drink of the Week

Wild Hearts

Sweet Coca-Cola flavour meets Wild Turkey and Amaretto in this combination.

Have one or two or three and go wild — as long as you have a designated driver.

- 2 oz. Wild Turkey 81
- 1 oz. cherry-flavoured Cola
- 0.5 oz. Amaretto

Combine Wild Turkey 81, cherry-flavoured Cola and Amaretto on the rocks and garnish with a cherry.

COURTESY OF WILD TURKEY

Bite into the low-fat side of a Philly Cheese Steak

This recipe serves eight. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

A Philly Cheese Steak sandwich is high in calories, fat and sodium. But if you use a top sirloin, which is lean, you'll be shocked how delicious it is at just 170 calories per serving and 8.2 grams of fat.

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil.

2. Spray non-stick skillet with cooking oil, add vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Add onions and sauté 8 mins. Add garlic, sugar, salt, pepper and bell pepper. Sauté 5 minutes. Set aside and keep warm.

3. Spray skillet with cooking oil and place over high heat. Cook steak until done to your preference, approx. 5 mins. Cool 5 mins. before cutting into thin slices. Add to the veg mix.

4. Combine mayo, sour cream and horseradish. Spread over both sides of rolls. Divide filling among 4 rolls, sprinkle with cheese and replace top half of bun. Place on prepared baking sheet; bake 5 mins. Slice in half.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced onions
- 2 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 2 tsp brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt and pepper
- 1 cup each sliced red and green bell pepper
- 8 oz grilling steak
- 2 tbsp low-fat mayo
- 3 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 2 tsp horseradish
- 4 small wholegrain rolls (6-inch), split
- 3/4 cup grated provolone

Cook live with Vikram Vij

Vikram Vij, an award-winning chef in Vancouver, and Metro want to help you find time for family meals. Our mission starts in the form of Canada's first live online cooking show to air Thursday at 6 p.m. ET at metronews.ca/vijcooklive

- **Get ready.** Visit the website to download a copy of the recipe and a complete shopping list before the broadcast. Vij's simple Indian meal is family friendly and he will show you step by step how to prepare it.
- **Have a question?** They can be tweeted live during the show using the hashtag #vijcooklive.
- **Online.** Remember to visit metronews.ca/vijcooklive Thursday at 6 p.m. ET for Canada's first live online cooking show.

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Looking for a job? Lose the white socks

Suit yourself!

Formal interview attire is preferred by one-third of CIOs

OLIVIA HOSKIN
TalentEgg.ca

When it comes to information technology interviews, interviewees can never be too formal.

Students and recent grads looking to become IT professionals may want to trade in their casual interview attire for something more suitable: a suit. The statistics don't lie; in a recent Robert Half Technology survey, 33 per cent of CIOs said a suit was the most appropriate attire for someone interviewing for an IT job. Additionally, 29 per cent favoured tailored separates, while another 29 per cent prefer khakis and collared shirts.

So fresh and so clean. An iron and a wash could lead to interviews and work. ISTOCK

It takes only a few seconds to form a first impression, and for a short interview, those seconds may make or break your chances of being hired.

Here are a few technology job interview attire guidelines:

Be comfortable
You want to be as confident and comfy as possible! If you are physically uncomfortable, this will show in your behaviour during the interview. Women, this means saving those stilettos for the club, not the office.

Don't overlook the small things
Make sure your shoes match your belt (or purse), and never, ever wear white socks! Ensure you are wrinkle and stain-free, well groomed and clean. If you are unsure, ask a professional … or your mom.

Everything in moderation
Choose one "thing" that interviewers can remember you by, like a bow in your hair or a uniquely-coloured dress shirt, but ultimately, the interview is about your qualities and skills, not your fashion sense. Remember to avoid overwhelming perfumes/colognes, excessive or inappropriately-coloured makeup and distracting jewelry.

Shut it off!
This is an obvious step that if forgotten, is often an immediate deal-breaker. Skip the silent setting and turn your phone off when you have interviews. Be present and distraction free.

Webcam interviews are still interviews
To ensure that you are distraction-free for webcam interviews, book a study room at school for an hour or two. This ensures a quiet and distraction-free zone. If you do not have access to a private room, just be sure to dress professionally from head to toe.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Mama knows...

Ensure you are wrinkle and stain-free, well groomed and clean. If you are unsure, ask a professional ... or your mom.

Olivia Hoskin

Dressing on a dime

As a student or recent grad, how does one go about purchasing such expensive interview accessories?

- Personally, as a student, I am on a tight budget when it comes to pretty much everything. Due to this I have had to search far and wide to find interview clothing at reasonable prices. Some popular methods include outlet stores, coupons and customer reward programs, shopping during the off-season and hitting up thrift stores.
- Of these suggestions, my favourites are shopping the off-season and thrifting. End of season sales are excellent for discovering cheap but new items that you can either save for the next year or wear immediately. Interviews in March are perfect because you can buy end-of-winter items and use them for a month before it gets too warm.
- If you want even cheaper clothing you can visit liquidation sales or thrift stores. Some of my favourites include the Salvation Army, Talize and Value Village.

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Call Kendra @ 664-4095 today to set up an interview or email résumé to careers@ffun.org

Many a meet-and-greet. Tackling the tech job interview takes time

Practise that pitch. Attend interview workshops, speak to a career advisor or participate in a mock interview. ISTOCK

You got an interview. Congratulations!

It's likely you searched for jobs on websites, leveraged your network and wowed a recruiter with your resumé and cover letter. But you're not done selling yourself just yet.

University of Waterloo career advisor Tanya Gillert says tech graduates can expect to be screened by an in-house recruiter or a member of the company's HR department before one or two technical phone screens and up to four on-site interviews with the employer.

"In an interview, recruiters are determining if they like you, if you know your stuff and if you are passionate about your field and specialty," she says. "Employers want to know if an applicant is adaptable, flexible and productive."

Here's a list of Gillert's top tips on how to ace the technology job interview and get the job.

Know the employer
Research the company's structure, history and mission. Learn about what the company sells, the clients they target and how they compete in their industry. Find out what motivates management and employees.

How can you tell an interviewer that you'll fit in seamlessly with the company's culture if you know nothing about them?

Do your research

How can you tell an interviewer that you'll fit in seamlessly with the company's culture if you know nothing about them?

Tanya Gillert
Career advisor

Know the position
Employers will list the skills, knowledge and qualifications they expect someone they hire to possess. Read the job listing and show them that you meet their requirements, Gillert says.

You can expect technical questions to be tailored to the role. Be prepared to write code, talk about code and find any errors in code quickly.

Know yourself
Know your strengths and weaknesses. Practise coding and solving problems in front of people. Be prepared to answer the types of questions Gillert says technology students can expect to be asked, including:

- coding and common algorithms
- design and redesign
- puzzles and brain teasers
- number theory

Practice how to solve these types of problems and if you don't know something, learn it.

CHRISTINA PELLEGRINI FOR TALENTEGG.CA

Roughriders general manager Brendan Taman talks to reporters on Tuesday in Regina. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Green and White ready to go Grey

CFL. Taman says Riders 'got pretty much everything we needed' from 2013 schedule

ROSS ROMANIUK
ross.romaniuk@metronews.ca

An "exciting" opening game in Edmonton will kick off the Roughriders' new season, the team's general manager says, as the Riders begin tackling the task of bringing the Grey Cup — and not just the championship match — to Saskatchewan.

Riders fans won't see their team at Mosaic Stadium very much early in the CFL campaign, though the Green and White will make up for that absence down the home stretch.

"From a football point of view, it's great. We got pretty much everything we needed," GM Brendan Taman said Tuesday after the schedule was released.

"You can always find something to complain about, which every team can do. But we're happy."

Following only three home games for the Riders in July and August, they'll play three of their last four in front of their faithful at Mosaic.

Other than what he calls a "little tough stretch" in travelling between Montreal and Vancouver within a week in the fall for consecutive road games against the Alouettes and B.C. Lions, Taman says he's pleased.

The Riders will play their last five games against West Division opponents, and will have four home matches in the evenings. They'll play nine of the 18 games on Saturdays.

"From a football point of view, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Friday — it doesn't matter," he said. "But I think our fans will follow us wherever we play. It's important that we get some good times for them to get to the games."

Most of all, Taman likes to see the schedule finalized.

"There's a lot of hype about it," he said. "We're just glad it's resolved. Away we go. We can plan things out."

Roughriders 2013 schedule

Home games:	Away games:
• Fri., July 5: Calgary at Sask., 7 p.m.	• Sun., June 29: Sask. at Edmonton, 1:30 p.m.
• Sun, July 21: Hamilton at Sask., 5 p.m.	• Thurs., July 11 — Sask. at Toronto, 5:30 p.m.
• Sat., Aug. 17: Montreal at Sask., 2 p.m.	• Sat., July 27: Sask. at Hamilton, 5:30 p.m.
• Sun., Sept. 1: Winnipeg at Sask., 2 p.m. **Labour Day	• Fri., Aug. 9: Sask. at Calgary, 7 p.m.
• Sat., Sept. 14: Toronto at Sask., 7:30 p.m.	• Sat., Aug. 24: Sask. at Edmonton, 2 p.m.
• Sun., Sept. 22: B.C. at Sask., 2:30 p.m.	• Sun., Sept. 8: Sask. at Winnipeg, 2 p.m. **Banjo Bowl
• Sat., Oct. 12: Edmonton at Sask., 2:30 p.m.	• Sun., Sept. 29: Sask. at Montreal, 11 a.m.
• Sat., Oct. 19: B.C. at Sask., 5 p.m.	• Fri., Oct. 4: Sask. at B.C., 8 p.m.
• Sat., Nov. 2: Edmonton at Sask., 3 p.m.	• Sat., Oct. 26: Sask. at Calgary, 5 p.m.

MLS. Whitecaps to set up academy in Saskatoon

The Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club announced yesterday that Saskatchewan will be home to the first academy centre outside of British Columbia in the Western Canada Major League Soccer territory.

Whitecaps President Bob Lenarduzzi said launching in Saskatchewan is a "good fit" for the organization as they begin to look at expanding, hopefully opening similar academies in other western Canadian cities.

"We're very excited … there are players, no doubt in our mind, that will benefit from this kind of opportunity," said Lenarduzzi

Based out of Saskatoon the centre will see Bryce Chapman, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies men's soccer coach, taking on the role of Whitecaps FC Saskatchewan Academy regional head coach.

"Through this partnership with Whitecaps FC and the university, along with previously established local relationships, we look forward to serving the best interests of players and coaches as we continue to foster the development of soccer in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Canada," said Chapman. METRO

Whitecaps Darren Mattocks, left, and Gershon Koffie celebrate Koffie's goal against Toronto FC during the season opener Saturday in Vancouver.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

DRIVE 5

The Chevy SS: It's about time

Auto Pilot. It's been 17 long years since Chevrolet released a model like this

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The 2014 Chevrolet SS, and its NASCAR Sprint Cup equivalent, both made their official debuts at last weekend's Daytona 500. SUBMITTED

At last weekend's big NASCAR race in Daytona, Chevrolet officially unveiled its newest sedan, the 2013 Chevrolet SS.

When it arrives in dealerships at the end of the year, it will be the first time in 17 years that Chevrolet will offer a rear-drive V8-powered sedan in North America.

Hallelujah

I guess I have a soft spot for Chevrolet rear-drive V8 sedans, because they were what my father drove during the 1970s, when I was a very impressionable and car-needy teenager. He taught me to drive in his 1971 Chevrolet Impala.

Good on Chevrolet for realizing that the brand needs to have at least one of these beasts in its catalogue. People yearn for them, it's part of Chevrolet's heritage, and it corrects that strained NASCAR visual universe, where Chevrolet-based NASCAR teams have been covering their ferocious rear-drive V8 racecars with body shells based on Impala stylings. The Impala has been a neutered, front-drive V6 sedan since 2000.

From Oz

- The SS uses a derivative of the rear-drive platform under Camaro, a platform initially developed by Holden, GM's subsidiary in Australia.

No coincidence that the NASCAR Chevrolet SS race car also debuted at the Daytona race. And right on script, five-time series champion Jimmie Johnson, in the No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet SS, took home the checkered flag.

The Chevrolet SS also upholds the "SS" designation with pride and purpose. (The brand has traditionally reserved those letters to designate high-performance Chevys.) The new SS will be motivated by essentially the same, newly-engineered 6.2-litre small-block V8 used in the 2013 Corvette — good for 415-hp and 415 lb-ft of torque. The only transmission is a six-speed automatic with manual shifters mounted on the steering wheel.

Rear-drive V8 sedans were once ubiquitous. Now they are premium pieces, which is the way they should be I guess. Not too many of us need that much engine. But as we've seen time and time again, when it comes to automobile love, or any kind of love for that matter, need has nothing to do with it.

Tickets don't stop teens: Poll

Driving Force. Safety biggest deterrent for distracted driving , while fines would only stop 7 per cent

Since teens tend to be more tech-savvy than older drivers, they may have a false sense of security about multi-tasking on the road. ISTOCK

JIL MCINTOSH
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Cars are safer today than they've ever been, but drivers aren't necessarily so. Car crashes are the number one cause of death among Canadian teenagers and recent statistics indicate that distracted driving is a factor in as many as 20 to 80 per cent of all collisions.

"We're targeting teens at anything to do with distracted driving," says Carmine Venditti, agency manager for Allstate Insurance Canada. "We list such things as eating, texting, speaking on the phone or putting on makeup while driving. These are things that are not keeping you focused on the road."

In a recent online poll, Allstate found that while 94 per cent of those responding said they were aware they could be charged for distracted driving, most of them cited safety as the main reason for staying off the phone and focusing on driving. Only seven per cent said that the threat of a ticket was the real deterrent.

Some 89 per cent of high school students polled, age 13 to 17, also said they would voice concern if they were riding in a vehicle and the driver was distracted.

"It's difficult to be age-specific, but we're seeing a lot more distracted driving at a younger age level," Venditti says. "The numbers drop somewhat as the age group gets older, but distracted driving is happening to adults too. What we saw was that the teenagers are bringing this over to their parents, and we're hearing, 'I see my dad doing this, and I tell him not to do it.'"

One problem, according to Venditti, is that younger drivers are usually more tech-savvy and for them, texting while they're doing something else isn't all that difficult.

"Multi-tasking is something that's easy for them, and they think they can text and drive," she says. "People say they won't do it, but it's difficult to know if they will. The legislation isn't scaring them, so we're hoping they'll understand the impact and the consequences on them and their families."

Distracted driving facts

Numerous studies show that it's the call, not the device, that diverts focus from driving. Both hand-held and hands-free phone calls contribute to more driving errors, slower reaction times and more collisions.

- Passengers aren't as distracting as phone calls, since they tend to stop talking in stressful situations.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no point complaining if you are forced to do something against your will today because it won't make any difference. Anyway, why would you complain when it will work in your favour?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be practical and methodical by nature but don't immerse yourself in details too deeply today or you may lose sight of the wider picture — a picture that looks brighter by the moment.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you have ambitions to be someone important then this is clearly a make or break time. It won't just happen as if by magic, of course, but it will happen if you are determined to make it happen. Get busy.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A friend is opposing you only because they genuinely believe they are acting in your best interests. Inform them that you are the one who decides what your interests are, though be polite about it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Cut back on your workload over the next few days, even if it means you earn less than before. Don't worry that you won't be able to make ends meet. You should know by now that fate usually provides.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If there is a project that needs completing, now is the time to make that extra effort. If there is a relationship that needs rescuing, now is the time to kiss and make up.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems you are weighed down by domestic chores. Fortunately, beneficial events over the next two days will lighten your load and free up time for more enjoyable things. Love is in the air.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Keep your plans under wraps so no one has the chance to steal your ideas. One of the most creative times of the year will begin quite soon, so it's OK to put your own needs first.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you allow your emotions to get the better of you today then squabbles are inevitable, but if you refuse to give in to negative emotions then you will sail through the day with ease. The choice is yours.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Think before you speak today but don't hold back once you have decided what you want to say. Not everyone will be happy with your observations but what matters is that you call it as you see it.

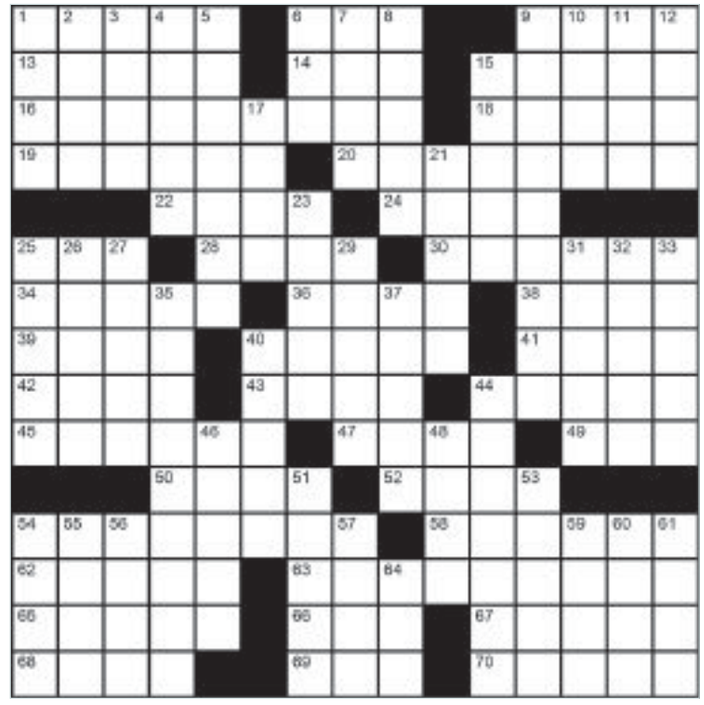
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Resist the urge to splash out on things you don't really want or need. Impulse buying will deplete your resources faster than you thought possible, so let someone else hold the purse strings.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's time to start something that delights you. It does not matter what your work or family responsibilities may be you must make time for what you enjoy.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

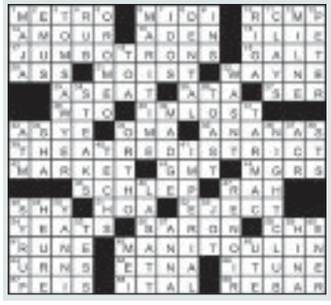
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Drinks at ice cream parlors
6. Wanna-__ (Aspirants)
9. Steve __ (Anti-apartheid activist portrayed in 1987 film "Cry Freedom")
13. _ __ of faith
14. Keyboard key
15. Practical joke
16. Prime Minister William Lyon __ King
18. __ mortis
19. Tempt
20. Its motto is Gloriosus et Liber
22. Not yet final, at law
24. Peru's capital
25. 'Violin' suffix
28. Engrave
30. Newfoundland town with an international airport
34. Swimming spots
36. Go backpacking
38. Biblical peak
39. Guess Who's "Hang __ __ Your Life"
40. __-Tracy, Quebec
41. Rick's 1942 film beloved
42. God: French
43. Train: Spanish
44. "Bolero" composer
45. Writer
47. Singer Ms. Brickell
49. Stop
50. Walk on ice, do this
52. J.R.R. Tolkien creatures
54. Vancouver band, __ Trench
58. Painter or sculptor
62. '80s TV series, "The _-__"
63. Bigfoot
65. Absurd
66. Poetic contraction
67. Magazine installment
68. Kinks song
69. English cathedral city
70. Herb kind

Down
1. Broadway Auntie
2. Mr. Thicke (Actor born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario)
3. Univ. professor's speech
4. "__' Care of Business" by BTO
5. Charles Darwin's On the Origin of __
6. Director Mr. Luhrmann
7. __. round (Part of a tournament)
8. Be a thief
9. Royal Yacht __ (Yacht that Queen Elizabeth used)
10. Character in Shakespeare's Othello
11. Dresser drawer attachment
12. Ingredient in Cajun cooking
15. __ ballerina
17. Savings = __ egg
21. Mr. Lythgoe, "American Idol" executive producer
23. Blood of ancient Greek gods
25. Apple music players
26. Type of boom
27. Bag carrier
29. New employee
31. __ into (Do investigative work)
32. Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
33. Willy Wonka creator Mr. Dahl
35. American state with Acadian ancestry
37. The Way of the Sword, martial art of Japan
40. American writer Gertrude
44. Military enlistee
46. Point a finger at
48. Baghdad's locale
51. Use glue
53. Hidden hoard
54. Canada Post stuff
55. __ time (Never): 2 wds.
56. Authentic
57. Navigate
59. __-bitsy
60. Soap __ (Bathroom cleanser's target)
61. You, Shakespeare-style
64. Mr. Stallone, nicknamed

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		7	2		5		6	
9		3	1	4		5		
	6						1	2
2			5		4		9	3
	9			8			4	
6	4		9		3			8
4	5						3	
		9		5	1	8		6
	1		3		2	7		

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	8	6	3	2	5	7	9
9	2	3	7	4	5	8	6	1
7	6	5	8	1	9	3	4	2
8	9	2	1	5	6	7	3	4
1	7	6	3	9	4	2	8	5
3	5	4	2	8	7	1	9	6
2	4	1	9	7	3	6	5	8
5	8	7	4	6	1	9	2	3
6	3	9	5	2	8	4	1	7

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A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

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